

Artist's Statement: Brad Berglund

Following my four-year old son Brandon's diagnosis with malignant brain cancer, years of treatment, pain and joy, I experienced a passionate re-visioning of life. My interest in photography emerged as a healing, contemplative, spiritual practice and has become an expressive and integral part of the process of grief following Brandon's death in 2009. My understanding of photography as a spiritual practice focuses beyond technique, choosing instead to emphasize our connectedness with the world around us and the gift of seeing life in new and surprising ways. In this understanding, photography becomes a powerful tool to assist us in practicing ways of seeing with heart and soul. I am constantly exploring new and creative ways to look through the lens.

Brad Berglund is a spiritual director and the founder of Illuminated Journeys, offering retreats, workshops and travel opportunities designed to deepen the spiritual life. In addition to earning degrees in music and theology, he has completed the spiritual guidance program at the Shalem Institute in Bethesda, Maryland. Brad has written two books on creativity in worship, "Reinventing Sunday" and "Reinventing Worship" and teaches seminary courses on prayer, liturgy and spirituality. His photos have appeared on magazine covers and in worship services throughout the country. Visit Brad at www.bradberglund.com